

REMARKS AND DISCUSSION

Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1 and 3-7 are pending in the application, of which claim 1 is independent. Claim 1 has been amended herein. The above-identified Office Action has been reviewed, the references carefully considered, and the Examiner's comments carefully weighed. In view thereof, the present Amendment is submitted. It is contended that by the present amendment, all bases of rejection set forth in the Office Action have been traversed and overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Amendments Presented

Claim 1 has been amended herein to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2 (now canceled).

Applicant also respectfully submits that the present amendments do not introduce any impermissible "new matter" into the application, as all of the subject matter of these amendments was expressly or inherently disclosed in the specification as originally filed.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC 103

In item 4 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Reinecke (US 4,116,307). The Examiner essentially repeated her comments from the earlier non-final rejection of claim 1, and indicated that in her view, applicant's arguments made in the amendment filed 16 December 2010 were unpersuasive.

Applicant's Response

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's rejection and respectfully traverses such rejection because Reinecke fails to disclose/discuss (or make obvious) features of the claimed invention, and because the claimed invention is significantly more complex in function than that of Reinecke's invention.

However, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the application, and as noted above, applicant has amended claim 1 herein to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2.

Based on the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 and 3-4 as being unpatentable over Reinecke has been overcome. As such, it is respectfully requested that such rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In item 7 on page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2 and 5-7 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated that each of these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant's Response

Applicant thanks the Examiner for recognizing allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 5-7.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that all of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action are overcome, and that as presently presented, all of the pending claims are believed to be allowable over all of the references of record, whether considered singly or in combination. The applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record, and allowance of the pending claims.

The application is now believed to be in condition of allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Entry of the present amendment after final under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested on the grounds that it raises no new issues for consideration by the Examiner, that it places the application in condition for allowance, and/or that it places the claims in better form for appeal.

If the Examiner is not fully convinced of the patentability of all of the claims now in the application, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephonically contact the applicant's undersigned representative to expeditiously resolve any issues remaining in the prosecution of the application.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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